Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees

Sterling, Nebraska

The Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Sterling, Nebraska, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:31 p.m. at the Sterling Firehall being a publicly convened meeting the same being open to the public and have been preceded by advanced publicized notice at the following locations: First Bank of Nebraska-Sterling, Sterling Public Library, and the Village of Sterling Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Ralph Wusk, Tom Nieveen, and Andy Thies. Steve Lempka was absent. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Audrey Keebler, Becky Barney and Christine Andrews.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the East wall. Chairman led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Wusk made a motion to approve the consent agenda with included accepting the payment of the following SCA bill Waymire Well Drilling, Inc. for $25,275.47, which was seconded by Thies. Vote: yeas: all, Motion carried. Thies made a motion to approve the Wusk Repair bill for $403.85 this was seconded by Nieveen. Vote: yeas: Nieveen, Thies & Keizer abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve the NR Marketing bill for $375.00 this was seconded by Thies. Vote: yeas: Thies, Nieveen, & Wusk abstained: Keizer.

These bills were approved for payment: Agua-Chem. Inc.-sup. $184.50; Barco Municipal Products, Inc.-sign, $239.83; Becky Barney-lib. sup., $165.09; Black Hills-Heat, $459.10; Nebraska Dept. of Rev.-taxes, $441.95; BMG CPAs-payroll $250.00; Bok Financial-fees $4097.74; Buss Pest Control-fees, $120.00; Constellation-heat, $2,259.70; Echo-repairs $447.84; Contech-tube & installation $3,274.48; First National Bank of Omaha-sup., $172.91; First National Bank of Omaha-sup., $325.85; Jet Stop-fuel $397.35; Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc. repairs, $560.00; Hancock Lumber, LLC sup. $16.38; Kerner True Value-sup., $4.99; Kudu Lawn & Landscape- mowing, $2,100.00; Lempka Heating & AC-repairs, $227.00; Eric McDonald Contracting-repairs, $99.90; Midwest Lab. Inc.-discharge, $352.00; NPPD-Elect., $2131.00; NPHEL-fees, $15.00; April payroll-$5,479.60; April payroll taxes- $1,499.81; Sterling Rural Fire District-ins., $1270.00; Spencer Pagel-ins., 500.00; Steve Mercure-retainer, $100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain- pub., $256.74; Voice News-pub., 220.90; Waste Connections-trash, $6,363.06; Windstream-tele. $424.29; NR Marketing- website $375.00, Wusk Power & Equipment & Repair-repairs, $403.85. Total: $35,235.86.

Becky Barney, librarian reported that the library board is up and running and officers have been elected. She introduced Christine Andrews as the Library Board President.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, visited with Echo, as the generator blew up, an estimate was received for $2687.24 the generator is under warranty so the cost to replace and reinstall it will be covered. Summer help has started working and are keeping busy with mowing, trimming trees and other maintenance. Nieveen suggested that the holes on Iowa street (near the Jet Stop) need repaired. Pagel said he will look into this. Locust street and bridge will be torn up and replaced starting next week. Big Red got the wi-fi installed at the well and 4 phone numbers can be added to the list to call. Work has also begun on preparing the ball fields for ball season. He also reported that the Sterling Fire Department did some training on filling a fire truck from the hydrants, he informed them to not use the hydrants in the neighborhoods as this can cause patrons to have brown water. Next time, the fire department will only use the hydrants near the firehall. Pagel also reported that he will be gone on May 12th for a while in the a.m. as he would be attending the funeral for Mike Gordon. He also reported that he will be out of town on May 15th for a family event.

The temporary Village Clerk Assistant, Sandy Weyers (filling in for the Village Clerk, Samantha Gordon) reported that a Sterling patron, Kylie Lempka had recognized and recommended a Sterling resident as a Sterling Yard of the month winner. She noted that the home improvements made to the home and property are a nice reflection of Sterling. The board agreed and decided to award this citizen with this month’s yard of the month award. Weyers also reported that information was received from the NDEE concerning information on available water grants.

Chairman Keizer, shared a letter from Van Kirk Bros. Contracting that due to a variety of events throughout the nation, they are giving notice of Force Majeure Event and time and cost will impact the Locust Street Bridge project. A Notice of Interest form from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance office in regard to the siren, was received and will need to be completed. He also discussed that he was contacted by the railroad and told that they will again be filling tanks from the Village of Sterling hydrants. They used 80,560 gallons of water. A discussion was held concerning the strain this causes the Village equipment and the quality of water that remains. Pagel had previously been in contact with the railroad and suggested that the try to get water at the firehall, but he was informed that this will not work as well for the railroad. Information on how to bill the railroad for the cost of water was shared with John, and the Village office will bill the railroad for the water use. Keizer reported that the Village will be receiving funding from FEMA and that there is one final step that needs completed before funding will occur. The surveyors, Rob Tichy are having difficulty determining the property lines near the Broadway street bridge, and the county may need to be contacted to assist with this.

The Zoning Administrator was not in attendance of the meeting, and no report was shared. Pagel did share that 4 new homes are projected to be built in 2021. 2 previous lot owners are planning to begin building and two new lots that have recently sold are also planning on building news homes.

Discussion of Property Clean-up- No discussion was held as Steve Mercure was absent from the meeting.

Old Business: Keizer reported that the Community Center meeting room has been finished. Just a few items are needed to complete the kitchen area. A discussion was held about adding additional parking and possibly putting in a tube and walkway on the east side of Maple street so that people parking on the street would be able to more easily enter the SCA community building. Pagel will check with Moss Trucking about this as Moss Trucking will be doing some other trenching too. Pagel also reported that the grass area at the community building has been mowed and soon the lawn will be sprayed for weeds. Keizer reported that the SCA committee is busy preparing for the Sterling Picnic, scheduled for June 4-6. There was no discussion on vacant property registrations as Mercure was absent from the meeting.

New Business: A motion was made by Wusk and seconded by Thies to pass Ordinance #2021-1 An Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sterling, Nebraska, Vacating a Portion of Spruce Street in the Village of Sterling, Nebraska. Vote: Yeas: All, motion carried. Thies moved, seconded by Nieveen to approve the part-time Village Clerk’s position be expanded to a fulltime position, with previously assigned and agreed upon duties, wages, and compensation being a salary of $37,800, $500 per month for insurance, and contributions to the HRA account effective May 15, 2021. Vote: Yeas: All, motion carried. Nieveen moved and Wusk seconded to approve the advanced payment to Alan Rogman upon the completion for street repairs listed in the bid, in the amount of $3,126.00. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. A discussion was held about village members emptying swimming pools into lawn areas. A complaint was received from area neighbors about the flooding of yards. It was decided to have the Village Clerk send a letter to the resident(s) that are doing this.

Nieveen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas; all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board Sandy Weyers, Assistant to the Village Clerk.